

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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Make Friends for Heaven

By the Editor

"And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?"—Luke 16:9-12.

How many in Heaven will be glad to see you? Jesus told the story of the unjust steward who, finding he would lose his job, set out to make friends who would receive him into their houses, and

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SWORD BOOK CLUB NEWS

SWORD BOOK CLUB NEWS is in this issue. See the announcement of the August selection, THE BASIS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH, by Floyd E. Hamilton, and the outstanding alternate, THINGS I HAVE LEARNED, by Dr. Bob Jones, and THE PROPHET'S MANTLE, by George W. Truett. Turn to page 8 and see the enthusiastic reports of the SWORD BOOK CLUB judges on these books. If you are not a member, you may get the books, anyway. Better still, there is a blank you may fill in to become a member!

Meet Me At Lake Louise!

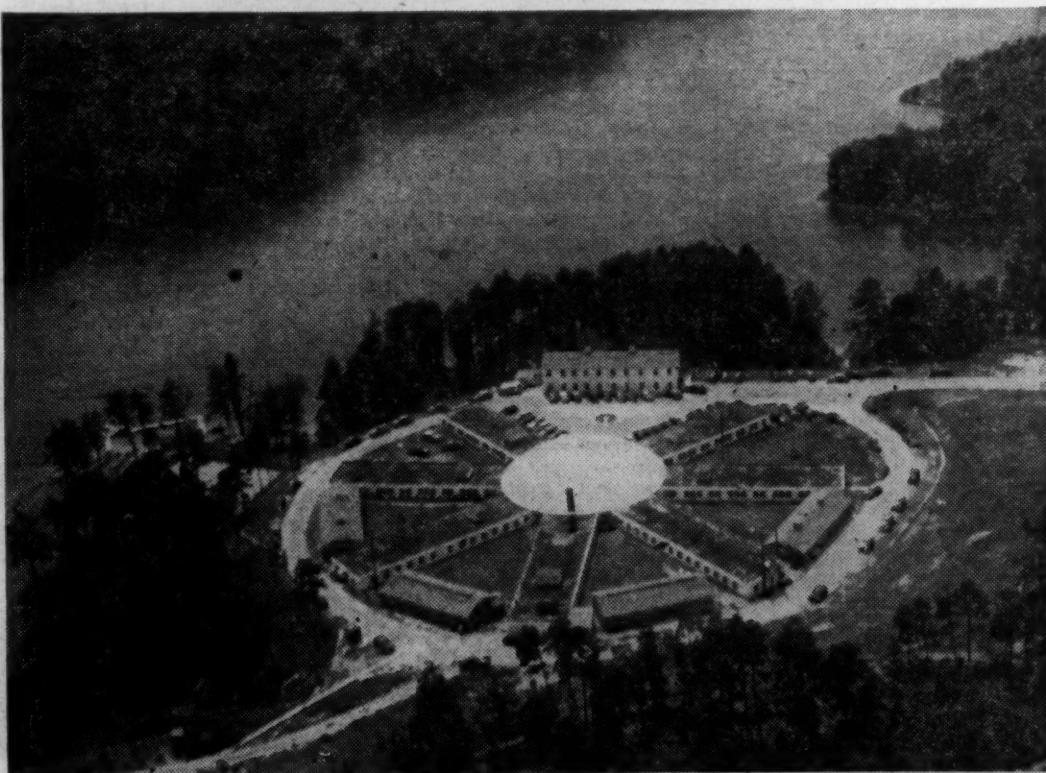
The next Sword of the Lord Conference is at Lake Louise, Toccoa, Georgia, the beautiful conference ground prepared by the great Christian layman, R. G. LeTourneau. There August 1-8 people will assemble from practically all over the nation to learn to win souls, to learn how to be filled with the Spirit, to be enriched in their personal Christian lives and to be refreshed with a really Christian vacation. MAKE YOUR PLANS AT ONCE TO COME! On the program will be Dr. Bob Jones, Dr. Joe Henry Hankins, Evangelist Rolfe Barnard, Evangelist Bill Rice, this editor, and others. Soul winning and revival will be the big themes of the conference. How to win souls, how to have revivals, how to have one's prayers answered, how to be filled with the Holy Spirit for the Lord's work—these will be the themes dealt with by Spirit-filled, greatly used soul winners. This is no ordinary Bible conference. We are assured that streams of blessings will flow out all over the nation from Christians who come to Lake Louise and catch the revival fire and are filled with the Spirit of God. What the Northfield conferences did in the days of D. L. Moody is what we expect God to do for those who attend this Sword Conference on Evangelism at Lake Louise.

A Beautiful Vacation Spot

Christians should take a Christian vacation. Instead of some worldly resort with dancing, drinking, smoking, profanity and lewdness on every hand, come to Lake Louise. Here in the hills of northeast Georgia, ninety miles northeast of Atlanta, sixty miles west of Greenville, South Carolina, is a beautiful spot for vacation.

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Beautiful Lake Louise



The above is an aerial photograph of Lake Louise Conference Grounds near Toccoa, Georgia, with modern, beautiful hotel, shown beside the lake. The large dome covers the auditorium seating over 1,600. One wing houses kitchen and large dining room. The other wings have attractive rooms for guests. This is a beauty spot, far removed from the cities. Here The Sword of the Lord Conference on Evangelism will be held August 1-8. Make your plans at once to attend. Write at once for reservation to

Mr. A. J. Philippi, Executive Director
Lake Louise Conference Grounds
Toccoa, Georgia

HELL

By the late DR. L. R. SCARBOROUGH
Long president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and famous evangelist.

The Word of God is very clear both in the Old Testament and in the New in the fact that there are two destinies for the souls of men. There is a Heaven revealed in God's Word. There is a Hell clearly told of in the Divine Book.

There are 264 chapters, I think, in the New Testament. In 234 times, nearly one verse for every chapter in the New Testament, alone, God says that there is a place of eternal punishment. If life's road twenty-six miles long had on it 234 sign boards saying, "This road leads to hell," I think I would go another road. There is a great deal more said in the Bible about the place of eternal punishment than there is about Heaven. I wish to say tonight that I believe the doctrine of eternal punishment stands or falls with the deity of Christ. If you say that there is no Hell, then you say that the Bible is unreliable; and if the Bible is unreliable, then Jesus Christ is not the Son of God and we are in a hopeless world without any anchor for the soul.

A friend of mine in my last pastorate said to me one Sunday afternoon, "I want to see you." I drove out to his house. His wife was a member of the church of which I was pastor. He was a member of another church. I did not know what he wanted to see me about. When we were sitting in his parlor he said, "I am thinking of joining your church and I have a question to ask you. Do you believe that it is necessary for a man in order to be a Baptist to believe in the doctrine of Hell?"

"Well," I said, "Let's see. May be your trouble is more serious

than that. You believe in Heaven, do you?"

"Yes, very firmly. I believe my mother whom you buried recently and our little child whom you buried recently are now in Heaven."

"And do you not believe in Hell?"

"No, I do not believe in Hell. I believe Hell is an injustice. It is dishonoring to God and I do not believe a merciful God would allow there to be a place of eternal punishment."

"Well," I said, "on whose authority do you believe in Heaven?"

"Why," he said, "on the authority of the Bible."

"Well," I said, "whose authority in the Bible?"

"Well," he said, "I believe it is the inspired Word of God."

I said, "Yes."

He said, "Jesus said, 'I go to prepare a place for you,' and so on."

"Well," I said, "then on the authority of Jesus Christ you believe in Heaven."

"Yes, I do."

"Well," I said, "suppose I quote from Jesus Christ just as plain a



Dr. L. R. Scarborough

statement about Hell. You believe that Jesus Christ will tell you the truth about Heaven and lie about Hell, do you?"

"Oh," he said, "you put it that way, do you?"

I said, "Yes, I do." I said, "Jesus Christ speaks many more times of eternal punishment than He does of Heaven." I said, "My friend, if you do not believe in the doctrine of Hell, you do not believe that Jesus Christ is reliable authority on anything." And I believe that that argument is logical and true.

I know in this modern world people are trying to sidetrack on this great tragical doctrine. Now, I do not like to preach on Hell. I do not like to believe in Hell, but since it is in the Word of God and I am commanded to preach the Word I am under obligation to preach that which I find and not what I want to preach. Now I want you to listen to some

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The Word of God for Preachers

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

(A lecture to preachers given at Third Annual Conference on Evangelism, Winona Lake, Indiana, July 14, 1947. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."—II Tim. 4:1, 2.

As I thought of talking about preaching the Word, God laid on my heart to deal first with the man and then the preacher. What is wrong with us is not that we are such poor preachers, but that we are such poor Christians. Every preacher here has the same trouble that I have. First of all it is John Rice the man. John Rice the evangelist is another proposition. I can fix that if I get the man fixed. It is the same way with you. So there is a lot that comes before preaching the Word.

How Much Scripture Should a Preacher Know?

What is involved in preaching the Word? In order to please God, Christians have to set out to know the Word of God. How much of the Bible do you know? You say, "In Sunday School I learned the books of the Bible." That is wonderful; I am glad you did. Somebody says, "I can quote John 3:16 and give the reference." That is wonderful. But if you take the third chapter of John, the fourteenth chapter of John, the twenty-third Psalm, the 103rd Psalm and maybe a few others—if you take, say a hundred well-

known verses out of the Bible, the average Christian could not quote another single verse accurately and give the reference. I believe it is true of some of you here. Christians, it is sad to say, do not know the Bible. Perhaps that is not true of the majority here, but it is true of lots of people we preach to, and it is true about some who are here.

I am a very poor example, and that is one of the embarrassing things I feel as I talk to you about this matter; but if I were going to talk to you, I felt that in the nature of the case I ought to use some examples and perhaps ought to use some of my own. I am such a poor preacher that I am a little sensitive about that. But a Christian ought to know from memory at least twenty or thirty chapters of the Bible, and I will take what we memorized at my house, what I memorized. I do not find it easy to learn as I grow older. I have to dig in pretty hard to memorize what I once memorized easily.

There are other passages some of you will find just as important, perhaps; but I think you should

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Hell

(Continued from Page 1)

Scriptures. I am going to show you tonight from the Word of God, and I trust every Christian here will be in prayer, for tonight I am going to preach the spiritual funeral of everybody under this tabernacle who listens. Now, you never before probably have attended your own funeral; but you are in attendance tonight on your spiritual funeral. I am going to show you from Job, from David, from Isaiah, from Daniel in the Old Testament, and from Paul, from John, from Peter and from Jesus Christ Himself in the New Testament that there is revealed in God's Word a place of eternal punishment. And then I am going to bring you a message from Hell.

The Sinner's Peril

In Jeremiah 23:12 is a wonderful statement about the peril and dangerous condition in which every unsaved man lives every hour.

"Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness; and they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the Lord."

Now, in that Scripture God says that every unsaved man is standing on slippery glass in the darkness every hour he lives. Now, you think of the peril, the danger, standing on slippery glass in the darkness of sin.

And then in Deuteronomy 32:35, "Their foot shall slide in due time; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste."

Standing on slippery glass in the darkness with God saying, "In due time your feet shall slide."

The Sinner's Destiny

"Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming" (Isa. 14:9).

"He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" (Prov. 29:1).

Because he hardeneth his will

and stiffeneth his neck against the call of Almighty God.

Job 21:30, the oldest book in the world, says:

"That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction. They shall be brought forth to the day of wrath."

"The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God" (Psa. 9:17).

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Dan. 12:2).

The great statesman Daniel, inspired of Almighty God, says that some time your old carcass will arise out of the grave to eternal damnation.

"Then shall he say unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matt. 25:42, 46).

And Jesus Himself is speaking in John 3:18, 36,

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) and that day" (II Thess. 1:7-10).

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (II Pet. 2:9).

"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb" (Rev. 14:10).

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15).

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).

This is the closing word of God about the awful day of punishment ahead.

Now, notice what He says. He names murderers and drunkards and whoremongers and liars and unbelievers. He that has rejected the Lord Jesus Christ is going to be carried down to Hell with the murderers, the liars, the whoremongers, and the drunkards, because he hath not believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. My friend, your trouble is not so much your sins as your sin. Your sins are but the expression of the sin in your heart by nature. And Jesus Christ says that you will have that day of eternal punishment because you have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ. God does not decide your destiny by your attitude toward your fellows, nor your attitude toward yourself. He decides your destiny in the world to come by your attitude toward Jesus Christ and He hangs your salvation on your rejection or your acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

A Man in Hell Speaks

Now, I want you to hear a message from a man in Hell. You raise the question: "Brother Scarborough, do you believe in a literal Hell of fire and brimstone?" I do not know how the punishment of Hell will be applied. It may be that it is figurative language. I do not know

about that. I know that God has a pretty hot world. It seemed today pretty close to this one and it was sure enough fire. I do not want to be any closer to the sun than I have been today. And I will tell you, my friends, if God has a place like the sun that He is going to send the sinner to, I imagine it is pretty hot. If I tonight, 93,000,000 miles away from that little world up there, have to speak in my shirt sleeves and perspire with the little exertion I make, if I were about one mile from that little world He has up yonder I expect I would think it a pretty hot place. But if it is figurative language and the figure is just a shadow of the real thing, oh, my God, what is the real thing? I do not want to get into it. I am not raising questions about what Hell is made of, nor what it is like. I am going to keep out of it and I won't have to know. And since the Bible is the only authoritative word which comes from the other world, I am going to believe it.

Now, Jesus Christ, after He laid those Scriptures and many, many, many others I could read you tonight, like a school teacher, comes out with His big blackboard and takes a case from real life and makes a demonstration. And I want to read you Christ's demonstration when He brings a message from a man whom Christ says has gone to Hell. It is in the 16th chapter of Luke, beginning with the 19th verse and going through the chapter to the 31st verse. And I do trust some of you old sinners will do like some have done in other meetings I have held—will wake up at two o'clock in the morning and find your Bible and read what God says and come back here tomorrow saved men. You say this story is a parable. Well, the proof is on you. God doesn't say it is a parable. I do not believe it is a parable. And yet if it is a parable it tells the truth just the same. I do not believe Jesus Christ will lie to men even in parabolic form. Oh, tonight, my friends, my heart goes out to you. I am not speaking in anger. I am speaking in love. I am not speaking defiantly. I am speaking to you tonight as one on the walls of Zion, loving your soul, believing in the light of God's word, wanting to warn you.

Knowing you are going to have to meet the truth of God up yonder, I want you to get used to it down here. You had better prepare yourself for the next world by the looking-glass of God's Word.

Now listen: "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate full of sores."

Here in this Scripture is a proof of the divine inspiration of the Bible. If a man had been writing this Bible, he would have called the name of the rich man and left the poor sinner out. But God called the name of the poor man and let the Hell-deserving rich man go without a name. Here is a rich man; got plenty to eat, got plenty to wear, got a good home, got plenty of friends, and here is a man that is friendless and penniless and hopeless and homeless and helpless.

"Which was laid at his gate full of sores. And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores."

He was so helpless he could not even kick the dogs off as they licked his body.

"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom."

How I bless God for that passage of Scripture. What a comfort and consolation to those of us who are poor, who will never have anything in this life, that God would send a group of His flying machines down to the door of this poor sinner and take his soul home to be with God.

". . . the rich man also died, and was buried." Now, anybody could have written this story that far. Your excellent reporters could say that much about any-

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body who died in your community, tell how much money he had, and so on and so on and so on. But the next part of the story there is not a reporter in this world who could tell, because God lifts the curtains between this and the next world and tells about what went on on the other side; and it is about that I wish you to listen tonight.

I wish to say that the rich and the poor alike must come down to the grave. Your money, your position, your health, your friends — nothing will shield you in the hour of death when God calls you. Now listen:

"And he lifted up his eyes being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."

Could See and Cry in Hell

Now notice the plain word of God. He says this man died and was buried and yet he opened his eyes and saw. What does it mean? It means that the soul of this man was not put in the grave. It means that the eternal spirit of this rich man was in Hell. He had eyes to see. He could see yonder into Heaven and could see a man who as a beggar had lain at his gate full of sores. I will tell you, my friends, when you die the hands of love will close the lids of your physical eyes, but there are no hands in this world that can close the eyes of your immortal, eternal soul.

Now listen:

"And he cried and said, Father Abraham."

He was a Jew. He had been circumcised. He had conformed to the ordinances of that day, of the religious part of the Jewish life, and yet he was in Hell. I will tell you, you may have your name on some church roll, but when you die you may go to Hell. You may call some one of these preachers here "Pastor," and yet when you die you may go down to Hell. Your church membership is not going to save you. This man cried and said, "Father Abraham."

Oh, my friends, he not only had his eyes to see, but he had his voice with which to cry. And notice what he says:

"... have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

Now, here is a man talking from Hell and he says that there is a flame down there. He says there is something there that is tormenting him and the lips of his eternal soul are parched. His body was buried and his soul was in Hell. That great deceiver of the people, Russell, went up and down the land, got the newspapers to carry his damnable lies and moving picture shows to put them on the screen, and in pulpit and on platform he tried to put out the fires of Hell. But that morning a few years ago when he fell dead in Texas on a flying train and I saw the telegram that brought the news, I said, "Oh, that man who tried to put out the fires of Hell — my fear is that he has a different story to tell now."

Here is a man who went before who said, "I am tormented in this flame." If that is not true, there is no truth in this Bible.

"But Abraham said, Son, Abraham called a man in Hell "Son."

Memory in Hell

Remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus

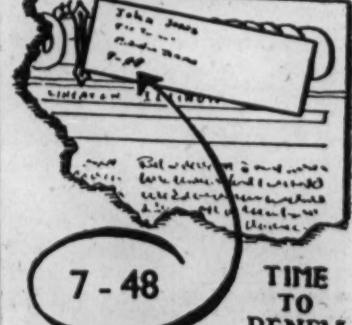
Macbeth, in that great story of Shakespeare, saw his hands, the hands of murder with the blood on them, and in that tragical story he says, "Though the oceans may carry their crystal waters across these hands, I see the blood." Jean Valjean in that great story of Hugo, having stolen the vessels out of the house of the priest, memory follows him and he would give a thousand worlds to be delivered from the memory of his sins.

But think of it, in Hell forever, and memory fresh! God help you to know tonight that you have an immortal spirit and that there is

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The Word of God For Preachers

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memorize among the Psalms the first, the eighth, the twenty-third, the twenty-fourth, the thirty-fourth, the thirty-seventh, and maybe the twenty-seventh; the 100th, the 103rd, the 121st, and the 126th. In the book of John we should memorize chapters 1, 3, and 14. In our case we did not memorize so much of Matthew. We learned most of the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, and the twenty-eighth chapter of Matthew. Then we learned Romans 8 and Romans 12, I Corinthians 13 and Philippians 4.

If all we say about the Bible is so, we ought to give it more attention, ought to learn more about it. Don't you think so? Any Christian here ought to be able to give from memory several hundred Scripture verses and their references.

Let's talk about preachers. A preacher should be able to take the principal books in the Bible and give in general the contents of every chapter. You ought to be able to start in John and know that the first chapter has the "In the beginning" passage, including the wonderful promise of John 1:12. It has the words about John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus, the conversion of John, Andrew, Peter, Philip and Nathanael. The second chapter contains that miracle in Cana of Galilee — the water turned to wine. The third chapter is the story of Nicodemus and the sermon of John the Baptist about Jesus. The fourth chapter is about the woman at the well, etc.

A preacher who sets out to preach the Bible ought to be able to go through, we will say, the books of the Gospels, particularly John and Matthew and perhaps Luke, then perhaps the books of Acts and Romans and a good many other books of the Bible, and give the principal theme in every chapter. Don't you think so?

I am a poor example, but what I am saying is that preachers do not preach the Word primarily because they do not know the Word. You just cannot go to a library or sit in your study and say, "Tomorrow is Sunday. I am going to preach tomorrow; I will get me some good Scriptures." That is too late to get ready to preach on Sunday. If you do not have a whole lot in your pantry a long time beforehand, you just cannot cook up enough for a big meal on that short notice. You are going to have to learn the Word of God! How much there is to it!

Constant Meditation on the Word Guarantees Success

Consider what the Word of God says about how people should be about the Bible. In Psalm 1, verses 1-3, we read:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Now how can you expect to begin your study on Saturday and bring a whole crop on Sunday? You say, "All right, I'll put my roots down in the water by the river now." But it takes longer than that to grow a crop of peaches or corn or potatoes. Do you see what I am talking about? The Word says, "Blessed is the man who is like a tree planted by the rivers of water because he meditates day and night in the Word of God."

Do you know what meditate means? A cow meditates. She has four stomachs. She says, "The grass is sure fine this morning; I'll just fill up on it, then lie down in the shade over here and enjoy myself." So she bites it off and swallows. Then she lies down and gets up a cud, that is, she regurgitates part of this food from her stomach. Then she chews and chews and gets all the

good juice out of it and gets it ready, then swallows it. After that she gets up another cud, some more of this grass, chews it and digests it. That is what meditation is. Reading is good, but that is not nearly all a Christian should do. A Christian ought to delight in the Word, meditate in the Word day and night. If you do that, after a while you just could not have company without having something mighty good to eat. A Christian ought to meditate day and night in the Word of God.

Listen! According to the Word of God, there is not any one secret of success in the whole Bible like this one: "And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Everything he does, God will bless. Whatever it is, it will prosper.

When one meditates day and night in the Word of God, his leaf will never wither. Some of you people get down in the mouth. Your leaf withers like cotton under a hot sun down in Texas. In west Texas the sun beats down and the cotton wilts. Then when it comes a rain, how it freshens up! Well, you do not need to be wilted. Your leaf need never wither, provided you have your roots down in the river of water. If you meditate day and night in the Word of God, you will bring forth fruit in your season, in your ministry, in your personal life, and everything you do will prosper. So says the Word of God.

Do you want to be a good preacher? Then start out to love the Bible, to feast on the Bible, to meditate on the Bible. I would rather have people who argue about the Bible than people who ignore it. I would rather have people who are always asking questions about the Bible than people who ignore it. Meditate in the Bible day and night, says the Word of God. Then you are certain to have fruit in season and everything you do will prosper.

Let's turn back to Joshua 1: 1-9:

"Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I have given unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law [the Bible—the writings of Moses was all they had] shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

The Lord is saying that everywhere you put your foot down, you can have it. Everywhere you go, He will be with you, just so you do not turn to the right hand or to the left hand. Meditate in it day and night. Don't you deviate from it. "Then thou shalt

make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Joshua is a success story. My, his story would be good for the American Magazine, wouldn't it? Do you know how he became successful? By meditating day and night in the Word of God. He did not turn his foot to the left nor to the right. He stayed right in it, had his heart in it all the time. There is no use expecting us to be Bible preachers until we are Bible-mastered men. I do not want to know how much you know about the Bible; I want to know how much of a grip it has on you.

To Have a Heart That Turns Away From the Word Makes Prayer an Abomination

There is more here. I call your attention to Proverbs 28:9. Here is an interesting and very serious thing connected with prayer. Necessarily your prayer life has to be right in order for you to be a good preacher, and here is a startling thing: "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination." Some people say, "I already know so much I do not have to read it," or "I do not have to hear it because I already know it." But God says, "But if you turn your ear away from what God is saying in the Word of God, even your prayers are an abomination." The sweetness of your prayers will grow largely out of your love for the Word and your understanding of the Word.

Many of you here have read the story of George Mueller of Bristol, that great man of prayer. One lesson you ought to learn from George Mueller is that your best praying comes out of the Bible. As you read the Word and meditate in the Word you begin to cry, "O God, let me do this You are commanding. Give me a heart to do this. O God, now help me to preach this. O Lord, this promise—I claim it." Your best praying, your most successful praying comes out of the Bible.

This doctrine of purgatory was born in Hell; and there is no such doctrine that there is a chance after this life. I am speaking to some man, perhaps tonight, an unsaved man, sitting by the side of his saved wife. Some day, my friend, you or she is going to die—you without Christ and she with Christ. You are going to Hell and she is going to Heaven and you will be eternally separated.

Down here in a Texas town I was preaching and talking on this very text of the fixed gulf. I said something like just what I said a moment ago. There was a man and his wife in that audience, he an unsaved man and she a saved woman. They lived out two or three miles in a beautiful home on a big ranch and farm. After the service they drove home. He told the story the next day in a great meeting. "On the way home," he said, "not a word was spoken. We got to the gate. She got out and went in and turned on the light. I put up the team, came in, and we retired. Not a word was said. Neither one of us could sleep. About two o'clock she said finally, 'What's the matter?' I said, 'Wife, we have been living together forty years. We have raised our children. You have been a good wife. I do not want to leave you and I do not want you to leave me.' That preacher said that when I die I will go to Hell and that when you die you will go to Heaven and he said we would be separated eternally. He said, 'I cannot sleep for thinking about it.' She said, 'Yes, and I cannot sleep either.' He said, 'Wife, I want to know whether that preacher told the truth.' She said, 'Yes, it is so. If you do not believe it, I will read it for you in the Bible.'" And she turned to this chapter and read it to him. It said, "Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed." She looked into his face and said, "Husband, that is the Word of God." God's Spirit took the message and sent it to his soul and he said, "Wife, I want to get on your side of that gulf." She said, "Husband, come and kneel here by the bedside and I will ask God to put you on that side of it." He said, next morning, in telling this story, "Bless God, I have gotten on my wife's side of the gulf." Oh, friends, tonight on which side of the gulf are you now?

For instance, we find in verse 9: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Do you want to master the sin that has you down? Do you want to overcome your temptation, your besetting sin? Then hide the Word of God in your heart.

Listen to verse 11: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Verse 14: "I have rejoiced in the

way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches."

Verse 16: "I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word."

Verse 24: "Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors."

Verse 63 is what put me into union revivals instead of one-church revivals: "I am a companion of all them that fear thee"—whether they have been baptized as I think they ought to be or not;

whether they are premillennial or postmillennial, just so they believe in the Book and the blood—"I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts."

The Bible Must Be Sweet to a Good Christian

Do you feel about the Word of God as David felt? He said it was "sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (Psa. 19:10). I read the Bible a good deal. With (Continued on Page 4)

Hell

(Continued from Page 2)

a place of eternal punishment.

But that is not all of the story.

And besides all this, Abraham is speaking,

"between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, and so they which would pass from hence to you cannot: neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."

The Impassable Gulf

I want to tell you, my friends, that God knows how to fix gulfs. Try to get to the moon, will you? Try to get off of this planet in your flying machine and you will see that God has fixed a gulf. And He says, between the home of the righteous and the damnation of the doomed, there is a fixed gulf.

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Do you want to master the sin that has you down? Do you want to overcome your temptation, your besetting sin? Then hide the Word of God in your heart.

Another Scripture on the Word of God is Psalm 119. That Psalm, as I am sure most of you know, is an acrostic, which means that it is divided into parts. In the Hebrew in which it was written every eight verses begins with a different letter. The first eight verses begin with the Hebrew letter Aleph. The next eight, verses 9 through 16, begin with Beth, the Hebrew letter that represents our B, and so on through the chapter.

Now this is an interesting thing: the whole 199th Psalm—176 verses—is about the Word of God. You will find it interesting to go through and mark every word that means that, such as the Word of God, the law of God, the commandments, the statutes, the testimonies, the judgments. You will find much for your spiritual life in this 119th Psalm.

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Hell and the devils that have gotten out of Hell do not want to go back; and yet there are men and women in this audience who are determined to go to that place where they will carry their voice and their eyes and their memory and their eternal spirits. God help you, if you have any sense at all, do not go to such a place.

God called me to preach, and on the 16th day of April, 1896, in my room in old Farnum Hall in Yale University, when I was struggling between my ambition to be a lawyer and the call to preach, I read that passage of Scripture. And I heard the cry of that man in Hell who said, "Go and tell my brothers not to come to this place." My friends, for twenty-five years I have been looking for that man's brothers. Thank God, I have seen thousands of them by faith in Christ escape that place. He has brothers here tonight. I am willing to die if need be to keep you from going to Hell.

But that is not all of this story. Oh, Christian people, won't you hear the cry of the helpless, doomed soul begging you to win everybody you can to Jesus Christ? Listen:

"Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them. And he said, Nay Father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent."

Why He Is in Hell

You see why that man is in Hell. It is not because he was rich. It was not because he was uncharitable. I heard a preacher say that this man went to Hell because he was uncharitable. I will tell you what I can do. I can take that Bible and prove to you that that rich man took old Lazarus into his house, gave him the best bed in it, sent for three nurses and five doctors and nursed him back to health, just as quickly as you can prove that he did not. It doesn't say he mistreated that man that lay at his gate. Why did he go to Hell? He himself says, because he did not repent of his sins. Now, my friends, I want you to see it. He says, "If my brothers repent, they won't come here. I did not repent, therefore, I am here." I will tell you, your trouble is that you hold on to your sins and reject Jesus Christ.

Now, I will leave it to any fair witness in this audience if I have not made it plain tonight. I can prove what I have preached from Jesus Christ. You are going to Hell, not because you own an oil well, not because you are wise or otherwise, not because you are good or bad. You are going to Hell simply because you hold on to those old miserable sins of yours and in doing it you reject Jesus Christ. "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."

I believe in joining the church; I believe in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper; I believe in liber

The Word of God For Preachers

(Continued from Page 3)

all the writing for this paper and my books, with all the answering of questions, I have to read it. I think I could say that I study it a good deal. It is my business, you know. But I wonder if I sometimes don't read the Bible until I feel, "Now I have done my duty. I would do my duty if it killed me; but now that I have done my duty I will read what I enjoy reading." I wonder if you ever feel that way? David said about God's testimonies, "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." Do you really rejoice over the Word of God as one rejoices over hidden treasures? Do you say what David said in the following Psalms?

Psalm 119:55, "I have remembered thy name, O Lord, in the night and have kept thy law."

Psalm 63:6, "I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches."

Psalm 119:148, "Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word."

Now, here is the point: there is not much sense in telling you to preach the Word until you begin to love the Word and reverence the Word and dig in the Word.

How Jesus Felt About the Bible

Jesus said in Matthew 4:4: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Do you want an interesting study that will delight your soul and cause your heart to burn? Then go through the Gospels and mark everything Jesus said about the Bible! When you do, you will begin to see that the living passion of His soul all the time was "that the Scripture might be fulfilled." We ought to feel about the Word of God as the Saviour felt. We ought to be like the Saviour is about the Word of God. We ought to delight in it, love it, meditate in it.

How many of you here—be honest, now; do not lie to God even for your self-respect—how many people here have even read the Bible through one time? Can you raise your hand in a solemn statement? (Some hands are raised). I will help you now if you will be patient. I am your friend, not your enemy. I want to help you. How many of you can say, "Brother Rice, I love the Bible and read it; but I could not say that I have read it all—every line of every genealogy, every chronological table," and so on? It will be a confession good for our souls. (Hands are raised). Now, preachers, I want to impress this on your hearts. This is a rather picked crowd, but I want to impress on you preachers that we have sinned terribly against God by not getting people to reading the Word of God and loving the Word of God. I do not mean this unkindly, but what a pity it is for anybody not to have ever even read all God has said in the Bible.

All the Bible, Genealogies and All, Rich in Blessing

I was one time reading consistently several chapters a day in the book of Luke. I was in the genealogy, but was so anxious to get out of it and get over to the part that was interesting to me. Then my heart was suddenly convicted and I said, "This is the Word of God!" My heart was so impressed that I said, "Lord, I'll preach on the genealogy next Sunday morning. I do not know what is in it; most of it just says, 'So-and-So begat So-and-So,' but the Word of God is bound to be good. So I am going to preach on this next Sunday morning." When I got to reading I found how the Saviour had come from kings and paupers and harlots! Before I got through I knew, as I had never known before, what the Bible means when it speaks of "The Son of man." I knew about the two genealogies; one the legal genealogy through Joseph and the other the literal genealogy through Mary. And both of them

according to the law are the lineage of David. I found proof away back yonder from Jeconiah that it was absolutely impossible for Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, to have been His real father because the law had clearly said that after a certain man of that line nobody would ever reign. It could not be. I found more proof of the deity of Christ and of His humanity and of the all-consuming love of our Father for us in the giving of His Son!

There is not any of the Bible uninteresting. There are just some uninterested people, that is all! I know what is the matter with you—you old carnal backsliders! You do not love the Word of God. How can you preach it until you love it?

One Can Preach Boldly the Part of the Bible He Has Lived

I hasten on. One of the great difficulties about preachers is that we do not live the Word of God. Do you know why I am bold? I can face any infidel in the world because I am not guessing. Some things I know. I have put this thing to the test. I have tried it so many times and so many ways that I know the Bible is the Word of God. I have tested it by scientific and historical evidences. I know that it is the Word of God! If you really want to preach with power, preach something you have lived yourself.

Sometimes there is an old drunk-en bum converted—in Pacific Garden Mission or somewhere else—and he begins to preach. He may not know but ten Scriptures, but, he knows, "Whereas, I was blind, now I see" (John 9:25). He knows that God will save a drunkard, and he preaches that. He does not know much else, but he is preaching what he knows. The reason a lot of you people hem and haw; the reason you say, "I suppose this" and "I suppose that"; the reason you do not ever make any impact is because you do not know whereof you speak. You have not tried this yourself.

Forgive me for some personal references; I have a testimony to give that may be of help. I thank God that in my own life I have gone through some crises about the Word of God. First, there came a time when the verbal inspiration of the Bible was questioned among my Baptist brethren in Texas. I was a Baptist; grew up in Baptist churches. I was trained in Decatur Baptist College, in Baylor University and then in Southwestern Seminary. I taught in Wayland College at Plainview, Texas. I was moderator of my association. I was on the field for Wayland College. I was an evangelist among Baptists. Then there came an issue and I had to take my choice. I left the friends of a lifetime—all my old schoolmates, all the Baylor University friends and Southwestern Seminary friends. I lost the friends of a lifetime overnight because I had to take a clear stand for the inspiration of the Word of God.

Many of those friendships have been restored now. My position is partly vindicated. It was partly complicated by other men over whom I had no control, and who did not always do right. But I had to take my choice. I stuck out my neck for the Word of God, and, thank God, I got the answer back. I know!

One time a committee called on me and said that if I did not do so and so, if I did not change my course, then they would black-list me. "You will never get another revival campaign in Texas. You will have to go out of the ministry. You cannot educate your children," they said. I went to the Word of God. There I found some promises. I said, "If God cannot look after me according to these words, I ought to get out of the ministry. But if He can, I need not bother about anybody else." I found out! I am talking about trying the Word of God.

There came a time when I had to find out whether God would look after me. I was finding in

the Bible such riches as, "Take no thought for your life," "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matt. 6). "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matt. 10:30). I was a pastor. We were very happy. They had built us a new parsonage. We had built a new church house. The church membership had more than doubled. They said, "Why it is foolish to think about leaving now." But there was a fire in my bones and I had to leave to be an evangelist. I only had two, two-week meetings planned. They said, "It is winter-time." Down in Texas we did not have many meetings in the wintertime, in small town and country districts. They said, "When summertime is gone, you will wish you were back here."

But God said go and I had to go. I said to my wife, "What about giving up our \$10,000 worth of government insurance and trusting the Lord and proving the Lord? If we are going to be in a tight, let's be in a good tight." So we gave up our government insurance. We did not get anything out of it. Then later we said, "Let's give up our regular salary." Now I do not think there is any command in the Bible against a salary. Many people have a salary who love the Lord and trust Him just as much as I do. But in my case God laid it clearly on my heart that I was not to have another stick to lean on. So we gave up our salary and launched out into revival work. Later I was pastor eight years, but I took no regular salary.

Oh, I wish I could tell you how God blessed! I promised God that if He would look after my business, I would look after His. I wish I had looked after His as well as He has looked after mine! I say the truth: I do a good deal of praying. I suppose I ought to admit that I have to. The Lord has me between a rock and a hard place all the time! I've got to pray. You have thirty-five workers and a paper that has to be published every week; you put on a lot of enterprises and feel led of God to launch out into the middle of the Atlantic, and you will find that you have to swim. So I am between a rock and a hard place. I've got to prove the Lord. I suppose I do not deserve any credit for that. I have to pray a good deal. You wait until you have six girls—think of all the nylon stockings to buy, think of having to get them ready for college, think of all the music lessons! I have spent thousands of dollars for piano lessons. All six of my girls take piano lessons. Some of them take violin and some of them take voice besides. Somebody asked me, "Are you president of Wheaton College?" I said, "No, I just finance it!" I have plenty of need for God's help.

But let me say the truth in Christ: I have a big family and many expenses, but God is my witness that about our clothing, about our home, about our college bills, about our music bills and such matters, I spend hardly any time at all praying. But, bless God, I go and make my wants known and then get down to the business of begging Him about His work. I do lots of hard praying. I have to all the time. I would go under if I did not. My neck is stuck out. We spent \$231,000 on Christian literature last year. We will spend more than that this year. I have to do lots of praying. Bless God, I do not do much worrying about food and clothing and housing for myself and my family. God takes care of that. We have plenty more to pray about besides that. I am saying that God will look after you.

Until you have some experience of trying the Lord out and trying out His Word, you are no good as a preacher. If you do not swallow the Word, if you do not chew it up and swallow it and

say, "All right, Lord, let's see what it does for me," you cannot tell anybody what it will do for them. "Preach the word." It must come out of your own heart and out of your own testimony. You must be able to say, "This is the Word of God and it is so. I have a holy boldness. I do not care what anybody says about it. It works. I know it works; I try it every day." Now, you have to have that. Prove the Word of God for yourself!

Preach the Word Itself

Then there is a last word I ought to say, though we do not have much time. Another time I will talk about the preaching end of it. But I lay on your heart two or three things: first of all, get your sermon in the Word. Do not make up a sermon and then get a text somewhere else. If you do, it is a pretext. I remember once I planned a sermon on the general resurrection and general judgment. It was a nice sermon. I got it up myself! I had Roman one, Roman two, and Roman three. Isn't that orthodox? Then I put in my subpoints. I had my introduction, and then the peroration, the conclusion. It was a nice sermon. Then I said, "Now I will have to find some verse to start with that talks about the general judgment. I must have a text." I know now that would be a pretext, but I did not know it then. None of you are as ignorant as that, I am sure. But I studied and studied, and could not find in the Bible a single verse that even mentioned the general resurrection or a general judgment. There is no such thing taught in the Bible! And my sermon was ruined!

Now a better way is to begin in the Bible. Find what Jesus is talking about and what the Bible is really saying and preach that. Do not make up your own sermon. Get it out of the Bible!

I have a good deal of trouble with my wife. She once said, "You fool lots of people."

I said, "How is that?" "You just go to the Bible, find something there and preach it. And everybody thinks you are so smart."

I should not have let the secret out! But you will save lots of trouble if you will preach what God says instead of what somebody else says or what you say. Preach what God really says in the Bible. Get your theme there, prove it by other Scriptures, and then illustrate it from the Bible.

I will go into that more another time. But preach the Word! Don't you think if we get to living the Word—I mean until it is in us all the time, until it is the delight of our souls, until we meditate in it day and night, until we master it and memorize it and use it, that then we will be able to preach it? Use the Word! With the Word of God, most of us are like David was with Saul's armor. David put it on. He was just a stripling of a boy, a shepherd boy, used to handling a sling. He would get a sling, put a rock in it, draw it back—and wham! he would knock the knothole out of a plank in the barn! They put that coat of mail on him. There were greaves to cover his legs so he would not get an arrow there, and a big breastplate over his breast. Then there were greaves on his arms and a backplate to cover his back. He could hardly walk with all of it on. There was not anything wrong with the armor, but David had not proved it.

You get up to preach a Bible you do not know much about; you

MAKE FRIENDS FOR HEAVEN!

(Continued from Page 1)

then Jesus drew the application. We ought, by the right use of money, to make us friends who will be glad to meet us in Heaven.

May I give a bit of personal testimony here. A long time ago I had to make some decisions about many matters. Should I save money for myself and my family? Should I try to lay up an estate, prepare for old age? Should I carry heavy life insurance, make investments in property? I decided no! I gave up what life insurance I had. I have no savings. God has been good to me, but I determined to lay up treasure in Heaven instead of on earth. My good wife agreed with me and we have been wonderfully happy risking the Lord for His daily provision and risking Him for the future.

When I received a hundred dollars a month salary we lived on about \$75.00 and gave the rest to the Lord's cause. Now for many years we have put all we could rake and scrape into getting out gospel literature, into training young Christians for soul winning, etc. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The reason lots of people can have no heart for

(Continued on Page 5)

get up to preach a Scripture that has never gotten your heart, and you will find that it will not get anybody else. If you do not weep, nobody else is going to weep. If you are not thrilled and exalted and lifted up, nobody else is going to have to let the Bible get you before it gets anybody else.

Now, let's learn the Word. Aren't you ashamed that you know so little about the Bible? May I say this: often in a sermon I use from thirty-five to fifty Scriptures. And I am not a good example. What I am saying is: how can you expect what you say to bring the results that God's Word will bring? If you are using God's hammer, it is all right to have a handle on it. It is all right to use an illustration to make the Scripture stick or to explain the Scripture. But the illustration is an incidental and secondary matter, used only to make clear the Word of God, to make people remember the Word of God. It is all right to give some facts and statistics to somewhat bolster, to somewhat make clear. It is all right to use an illustration, but remember it is the Word of God that does the job. It is all right for you to explain it, expound it in human language. That is fine. But remember it is God's message in the Word. Be sure you get that over. The Word of God will do it!

Now let's pray that God will help us to begin to dig in the Word and delight in the Word and read the Word and meditate in it day and night, and then preach the Word.

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Cold War

By REV. R. S. BEAL, D.D.
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Tucson, Arizona

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I John 5:4). There are many kinds of war, but a new one has sprung up within the last few months. A new terminology is upon the lips of multitudes. It describes a new kind of warfare so far as the world is concerned. We speak of limited war, that is, one country involved in conflict with another. Now we speak of world wars and in connection with the last one, all-out war with every one and everything involved.

Christians know something about cold war for their Bible makes it plain, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood [the common variety of warfare], but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). Again we read, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the

flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled" (II Cor. 10:3-6). Recognizing the reality of cold war, the Apostle Paul warns the Thessalonian believers by writing, "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation" (I Thess. 5:8).

God's children are engaged in a continual battle against the Devil and are cautioned thus, "Neither give place to the devil" (Eph. 4:27), and are urged by the Apostle James to "submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Nothing short of the whole

armor of God will ever give believers adequate protection against the enemy's onslaughts.

The battle against false teachers is waxing hotter and hotter. It is not one of blood-shedding, but of constant warning and opposition. In the face of the terrific apostasy which Jude describes in his brief epistle, Christians are exhorted to "... earnestly contend [do battle] for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). Paul calls upon young Timothy to "fight the good fight of faith . . ." (I Tim. 6:12), and then bears witness concerning his own experience, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:7).

The great apostle to the Gentiles knew something of the weaknesses of the flesh and the continual battle which needed to be waged in this direction, so he wrote, "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly, so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body [lit. I give my body a black eye], and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway [disapproved]" (I Cor. 9:26-27).

Cold war is going on all the time for the people of God, but praise be to God, though it may seem difficult, not one of His dear children need go down in defeat through heart failure or a break down of the nerves. ". . . This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

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Where can you put money that will do more good than in sending subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD? One 8-month subscription will send more than one hundred of the best sermons of the leading soul winners in America to one home! Some people will be kept out of Hell because they had loved ones or friends to send them THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Some young men will enter the ministry because they were sent THE SWORD OF THE LORD and got on fire to serve Christ. Family altars will be established. Christians will learn to win souls. And that will be brought about by those who love God enough to invest in sending THE SWORD OF THE LORD to others. We are not guessing about this. Letters from thousands prove that these results actually come from subscriptions sent to others.

Nearly every church has some Christians who ought to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to every family in the church. Do you love Christ enough to do that? Do you love your pastor and church enough to make this contribution to revival among your loved ones and neighbors and fellow church members? If so, send your subscriptions for the church membership.

If so, send your subscriptions for the church membership as soon as you get the names and addresses accurately. We will send the beautiful gift book, one copy for every three subscriptions, or other books at similar rate if you wish.

Somebody should send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to every preacher of your denomination in your state. Is God speaking to you about this? Do not say no until you pray about it. Thousands of subscriptions are coming in but God is not yet satisfied with the number, I know. Many of you have not done your part. Do it today in Jesus' name, and you will be glad, I know.

I make this earnest appeal in Jesus' name and for His glory. Remember, I do not get a penny as editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, not a particle of profit from your subscription, but I will rejoice to have you as a partner in this blessed work.

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Mark each subscription "new" or "renewal." Give names and addresses plainly. Canada and foreign subscriptions will be 6 months each instead of 8 months, at the same rate. Do not disappoint us; do it today.

In the Saviour's name, yours,
John R. Rice, Editor

Meet Me at Lake Louise!

(Continued from Page 1)

Lake Louise is a crystal gem, surrounded by hills and pine trees. There are boats, tennis courts, room to play soft ball and shuffleboard. Many will enjoy the fishing. Others will rest quietly in the afternoons, or talk, or walk through the hills. A few miles away are beautiful Toccoa Falls, twenty-six feet higher than Niagara Falls. Those who come in their cars will find the Smoky Mountains a scenic beauty land.

The large, air-conditioned hotel, built by Mr. R. G. LeTourneau, is comfortable; meals excellent. The auditorium seats over 1,600 people.

Here one can find refreshing for the soul, with Spirit-filled Biblical teaching and preaching under topnotch soul winners. Here one can have Christian fellowship and relaxation and recreation—a restful vacation. Here one can be delighted with scenic beauty that draws the soul toward God!

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by hearing." We must first hear in order that we may know what is to be believed and trusted. "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee . . ." (Psa. 9:10).

As we look further, it will be to discover that it was faith that

Overcame the Wilderness

"By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned" (Heb. 11:29). By faith in God they were taken across the mighty Red Sea on dry ground. But having reached the other side and won the salvation victory, they were largely overcome by the world in their desire for the things of Egypt. They murmured and complained, and yearned for the leeks, onions, garlic and cucumbers of the land of bondage. God had something vastly better for them in Canaan, but unbelief prevented them from entering in. In Egypt they had worked hard and without pay. Now God was making it possible for every one to be able to sit under his own vine and fig tree.

The wilderness is no place for the people of God. May I ask, if you are a doubting Christian, why you are unwilling to go all the way with God? It is such a pity to see so many of God's dear children overcome by the world rather than overcoming the world. They are crying for the very things that were a menace to them when they were in Egypt as slaves. Why not trust God for our pleasures and our joys as well as trust Him for our provisions?

Can it not be that you are tired of wilderness wanderings? Is there not down deep in the heart a desire to dwell in the place of God's appointment, in a land flowing with milk and honey and where victory may be found? Half-hearted living for Christ Jesus neither leaves a soul here nor there. His existence is miserable. I urge you to cast yourself wholly upon Him and discover how He responds to your faith in granting victory over the wilderness.

There is another aspect to this subject. We see the victory of faith that

Overcame Egypt

The key thought in connection with this is found in the great faith chapter of the book of Hebrews, "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible" (Heb. 11:27). Egypt stands for the world with its beauty, its glory, its wealth and its attractiveness. But with it all, the chosen of God were in that land and they were there as slaves. What good did all the glory do them so long as they were slaves? Some of those Israelites may have had some worldly accumulation, some of them might have been better educated than others, but they all had one thing in common and that was slavery. Being in bondage, they were helpless and perhaps hopeless.

So it is with every man in this world who is out of Christ. He is in the land of bondage. All the reform that might come to him will only serve him in his bondage and will not produce the liberty he craves. No individual will know freedom from his slavery until he finds it by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Israelites of old took God at His word. They sprinkled blood where they were told to put it, and on that awful and eventful night when the death angel swept over the nation claiming the first-born, they were protected, and they went forth as they were told. It was a bold thing for an army of slaves to do, but the victory that overcame Egypt for them was their faith. There were no carnal weapons, no instruments of war, no schemes and no strategy—they simply took God at His word. ". . . This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." There is only one way to come to God and that is on the faith basis. "Without

Overcame in Canaan

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days" (Heb. 11:30). Having crossed the swollen waters of Jordan the children of Israel came to the shores of Canaan, the Promised Land. It was not long until they discovered the sailing was not altogether smooth. There were difficulties, but faith must have its testings, and we can praise God for this. The first thing we read is, "Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in" (Josh. 6:1). There was a great wall and it must have proven to be a sore trial to their faith. But faith needed these walls. Long ago Peter wrote, "The trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth . . ." (I Peter 1:7). Here an obstacle turns out to be a blessing. We are not to be discouraged in the face of big walls

Continued on page 7)

TREMENDOUS CONFERENCE AT JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY

By the Editor

This is Sunday morning, July 4. I sit in a men's dormitory on John Brown University campus, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Today we are bringing to a triumphant close, God willing, what has been a blessed conference on evangelism, sponsored by THE SWORD OF THE LORD. The conference has surpassed our expectations and all of us are grateful to God.

The Program

The program has been as great as any conference on evangelism we have ever had. Dr. Bob Jones was at his best—powerful, heart-moving, practical, exerting a mighty influence on the lives of the people. Dr. Hankins has moved our hearts greatly for soul winning and prayer. Evangelist William Rice, my brother, has been to hundreds a most delightful surprise. The moving, colorful, dramatic quality of his preaching kept people on the edge of the benches. His quaint asides and pungent humor one moment had people roaring with laughter and the next moment they were bowled over by tremendous truth and brought to a tender hush of tears as a point was driven home. Bill starred as song leader much of the time also.

Evangelist Del Fehsenfeld brought three stirring messages and led in a soul-winning visitation that resulted in fifteen or twenty conversions. Dr. John E. Brown spoke with deep and moving conviction about "The Prayer of Faith," and blessed our hearts. And there was much evidence that my Bible teaching on the Holy Spirit and revival was used of God to change lives. It was really a life-changing program, as manifested by the tears, the confessions, the holy vows, the souls saved in the conference.

Emil Aanderud played in every service the cornet, the trombone, the euphonium. I first heard him in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I do not know his equal; a fervent, godly and brilliant musician. Miss Grace Jean Rice was at the piano in every service. The Heide family of Ferndale, Washington, Mr. and Mrs. McCleskey, Mr. Storm Whaley and others helped greatly in the music. There was not a dull moment, certainly not a dull service.

The Attendance

How they came! Brother Arthur Gordon came all the way from Maine by bus, just for this conference. How his face shone! From Washington state, from California, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Virginia, Illinois, Arkansas, South Carolina, Missouri, Colorado, Indiana, New Mexico, Arizona, Tennessee, and Kentucky they came. Twenty-five states were represented! A large proportion were preachers. It is easy to preach to people who come so far to get a blessing!

John Brown University

A little later, God willing, we would like to give an adequate write-up of this fine Christian University of vocational specialization. How wonderfully kind were all the University authorities! Dr. John Brown himself helped on the program, welcomed us most cordially. President John E. Brown, Jr. put all the facilities of the University at our service. Settling people into rooms was most efficiently handled. The meals were exceptionally good. Faculty and staff and student body all went out of their way to cooperate with the conference on

evangelism. Most of the services were broadcast on the University radio station KUOA, and where previous contracts tied up some of the time, the services were broadcast by F.M. radio and recordings were made, to be broadcast later. The University made a most generous contribution to the conference on evangelism in that they entertained the speakers and staff of the conference without charge, a contribution we had not expected, of course, and which we greatly appreciated. By God's grace the heavy program was cared for financially without distress. It was really a blessed and successful conference on evangelism.

The Results

There is no way to measure, this side of Heaven, the marvelous results of such a conference on evangelism. But certain testimonies give an inkling of the impact the conference made on the lives of people. One pastor said:

"Year before last I baptized forty-seven converts in my church. Then I went to The Sword of the Lord Conference on Evangelism at Winona Lake and this past year I baptized eighty-five converts. Most of the increase, I am sure, is because of the effect of the conference on evangelism. Now I expect to go home and win more than ever."

A Methodist pastor rose in the congregation and said, "I came here defeated. I did not know what to do about the coldness and worldliness of my church. We had tried to have a revival and not a single soul was saved. Thank God, I know the answer now!"

Another pastor said, "I have had many prayers answered since I went to the last Sword of the Lord Conference on Evangelism. But one great problem remains; one prayer is yet unanswered. But now I have found the things in my life that displeased God and have confessed them and forsaken them here. Now I believe God will answer this other prayer and lift this other burden."

Another pastor said, "I was cold and backslidden in heart when I came to this conference. Thank God for the joy and power my heart has felt here! I am going home revived and expecting God's blessing."

More than once scores of ministers solemnly indicated by lifted hands or by some other public act that they were conscious of a powerless ministry or that they knew of hindrances in their lives that blocked the greatest blessing of God.

In a special young people's consecration service, where a large crowd gathered by an outdoor bonfire and Evangelist Bill Rice preached, many young people and some preachers each took a stick of wood and cast it into the fire as a solemn indication of sin forsaken or some dear plan given up for Jesus or some self-will laid on the altar, that one might be all God wanted him to be. It was a solemn and moving time.

Heaven alone will reveal the mighty results in this conference on evangelism, conducted by evangelists, to transform the lives of Christian workers and make Christians into soul winners.

John Brown University authorities have indicated that they would like to have us back next year. Full announcement will be made later. Meantime, we look forward to having an even greater blessing at Lake Louise, Toccoa, Georgia, August 1-8, this year, when the same speakers, plus Evangelist Rolfe Barnard and others will help

the SWORD OF THE LORD.

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Wife Assured, Husband Saved Thru Sword Gift Subscription

Dear Editor:

I have subscribed for a good many people, but have had word from only two people who knew I signed for them. They were just newlyweds. She wrote me that she was not sure of her salvation, and her husband wasn't saved until she got to reading THE SWORD OF THE LORD to him and looking up the Scriptures on salvation.

"One morning about two o'clock she said he woke her up and wanted her to get up and pray with him. She was brought up in a Christian home and had Christian parents, but she married and went to Prince Edward Islands, about two thousand miles from home. She was the only girl, so I thought it would be a nice wedding present. I also gave her the book, *The Scarlet Sin*. She said they got up and knelt at their bedside. She prayed and he prayed, and he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour. It gave me great joy in my heart to get that letter. I do thank God for His great salvation which sets the sinner free . . ."

Mrs. Florence Cole
Hagersville, Ont.

1 Sermon Revolutionizes Home

Dear Dr. Rice:

"... In response to your request for letters, telling of blessings received through this paper. I would like to say that it was in this way we were led to consecrate our lives to Christ. My husband and I had been carnal Christians until my mother passed me a copy of your paper in which we read a chapter from your book on THE HOME. As I read, I realized ours was not the consecrated Christian home that you pictured, but I had a deep desire to have this type of home for our children. We had not been in any deep sin, but found it was a matter of being willing to surrender all to the Lord. When we surrendered our hearts completely to Him. He took away every desire for worldly pleasures and filled us with an interest and understanding in spiritual things."

"This happened two and one-half years ago, and since then we have had a wonderful joy and peace in our lives that we had never known before. Now we have a blessed assurance of our salvation, where before I was often in doubt and perplexed. God has given us opportunities and we find our greatest joy in serving Him . . ."

Mr. and Mrs. Warren D. Anderson, Franklin, Mass.

Sword Representative Available for Meetings

Now associated with THE SWORD OF THE LORD is Mr. C. E. Christopherson, who has just moved to Wheaton from Fairdale, North Dakota. Mr. Christopherson is called of the Lord to be an evangelist, and is ready now to hold meetings representing THE SWORD OF THE LORD. He will show Christian films, particularly those of Editor John R. Rice, "The Dying Thief," "The Soul Winner," and other illustrated sermons which will soon be ready.

Brother Christopherson is an earnest, mature, well-trained Christian man. He is a graduate of Red Wing Seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota, having taken both the Academic and Pro-Seminary courses. He is also a graduate of the St. Olaf Junior College at Northfield, Minnesota.

Pastors and others who are interested may write to Brother Christopherson at the Sword of the Lord office, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois. He will come for a free-will offering, and will take subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

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Did Christ "Descend Into Hell"?

By the Editor

Dear Friend —

I was glad to have your letter of December 27 and will answer it the best I can. And I pray that I may help you to clear up any misunderstanding or lack of understanding that may trouble you.

What Hades Means

First, in the Apostles' Creed the statement that Christ "descended into Hell" really means that Christ "descended into hades," that is, into the realm of the dead, into the unseen state. With that idea in mind it is all right for one to quote the Apostles' Creed, letting the word Hell stand for the meaning that it often had in the past.

The word sheol, the Hebrew word often translated "Hell" in the Old Testament, and the Greek word hades, often translated "Hell" in the New Testament, really originally meant the place of the dead. Although the term sheol in the Old Testament is sometimes translated "the grave," it always means in some figurative sense. It never is used as a synonym for a sepulcher, nor any particular grave. For example, we may say in the inspired words of Paul, "O grave, where is thy victory?" The word grave there is simply a figure to represent death. The word sheol is never used in the Bible for any particular grave and never means any literal grave. It means the realm of the dead, the unseen state, etc.

However, in the New Testament the tendency is to make the word hades mean only the realm of the dead where the lost people are.

Proof That Jesus Did Not Go to Hell

Second, it is important to note that Jesus Christ in the spirit did not go to Hell. There are several proofs of this.

1. On the cross Jesus prayed saying, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." That indicates that the spirit of Jesus went immediately to be with the Father.

2. Jesus said to the dying thief, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." If the thief went to Heaven, then Jesus did, too. And the extreme dispensationalists, influenced by the Plymouth Brethren, who say that Paradise is simply a section of the unseen world in the center of the earth and is not Heaven, do not have a leg to stand on, in my judgment.

They disagree with the great theologians of the past in this matter. Paradise is evidently the presence of God. In II Corinthians 12, verses 2 and 4, Paul by divine inspiration identifies Paradise and the Third Heaven as the same. So when Jesus went to Paradise with the dying thief, He went to Heaven, to the presence of God.

3. Another thing that makes it clear that Jesus did not go to Hell after He died, that is, to the place of torment, is that He said on the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30). So all the atonement was finished and Jesus did not need to suffer any more to pay for man's sin. The suffering was ended, the atonement was ended, the redemption of mankind was ended.

I was glad to have your letter and hope that this can be a blessing to you.

Scriptures on Christ's Three Days and Nights in the Grave

You say that Rev. William R. Newell in a footnote in his book on Romans brings together the following Scripture verses about the Lord's three days and nights in the heart of the earth: Romans 10:7; Matthew 12:40; Ephesians 4:9; I Peter 3:18, 19 and Psalm 71:20. Please consider these in order.

Romans 10:7. To descend into the deep to bring up Christ again from the dead refers obviously to the bodily resurrection. Christ has risen once from the dead and does not need to be raised again.

Matthew 12:40 clearly teaches that as Jonah was bodily three days and nights in the belly of the whale, so the body of Christ would be three days and three nights in the grave and rise again.

Ephesians 4:9 says: "Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?" This simply means that as Jesus in His physical body ascended to Heaven as recorded in the first chapter of Acts, so first He came bodily out of the grave. The reference, of course, is to the physical resurrection of His body and the physical ascension of His body. For that matter, John 20:17 indicates that Jesus ascended to Heaven to carry out the high-priestly offering of His own blood in the temple in Heaven the same day He rose from the dead. But in any case, the ascension was of His body just as the resurrection from the grave referred to the body of Jesus. His spirit was not in the grave.

I Peter 3:18, 19. This Scripture of course refers to the resurrection of Christ when His body was "quickened by the Spirit." It does not refer to Christ as preaching in Hell during these three days at all. Read this Scripture very carefully, verses 18-20: "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."

Now note the following facts: (a) It was "by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison." Christ went through the Holy Spirit. (b) But this preaching was not when the body of Christ was in the grave. It was "when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing." Back in Genesis 6:3 God said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." That was when Christ through the Holy Spirit was striving with the sinners before the flood in the days of Noah. There is no Scripture at all to teach that Christ went to Hell to preach during the three days that His body was in the grave. The people who are now in Hell heard Jesus preach, but it was through the Holy Spirit when they were alive on earth.

Your brother in Christ,
John R. Rice

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COLD WAR

(Continued from Page 5)

and mighty mountains. God often permits them for the good of our faith. We are to hold on by faith, knowing that the victory is certain.

The basis of our faith is clearly discovered when we read, "And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor" (Josh. 6:2). It is the Word which counts. Here the Lord speaks and those great walls are still intact, but they are as good as down. So long as we have a promise from the Book we need have no worries. God is faithful and will never go back on His word. Many criticize the Bible and seek to discredit it in an effort to destroy faith's foundation and thus leave men stranded. "I have given" is what God said, and what more does any one want? We take in faith what He gives.

Joshua did not argue with God as to the frailty of his forces nor their lack of equipment. Immediately he called for the priests and the people (Josh. 6:6). Action was necessary. "Faith without works is dead." God having spoken it was time to go forth, hence, the call issued by their leader. Mere empty profession is not to be mistaken for a true faith. Painted fire will never boil eggs. Then later we read, "And Joshua rose early in the morning . . ." (Josh. 6:12). This mighty man was full of zeal and ready to go the limit with God. True faith never worries about the circumstances, nor the swollen rivers, but goes right ahead.

I am sure the story is familiar to all of us as to how the children of Israel marched each day around the mighty walls and on the seventh day they moved around the city seven times. All were silent, save for the sound of the horns. They uttered not a word and there were no questions. Faith never questions, but moves forward. No doubt the people of Jericho laughed and called the crowd an escaped lunatic asylum.

Thus for six days faith was tested, but on the seventh day it testified and a mighty shout of triumph went up to God. The increased activity near the end is surely significant of the increased activities found today among God's true children as the end of the age draws nigh.

It is significant to note that the children of Israel were to take nothing when the city was conquered. They were not to lean upon what they had conquered. They were to draw daily on Him. No depositor in a bank will know the strength of his bank by drawing out a dollar a day. We are to count heavily upon God even in the hour of victory. It is so easy to lean upon what we have accumu-

lated and upon natural resources. It is said that the soldiers and sailors in the Russo-Japanese war were not allowed to carry anything that could possibly be made to serve as a white flag, not even a white pocket handkerchief.

In the battle against the world, the flesh and the Devil we must have such victorious faith in our Captain that we carry no flag of truce.

We come finally to faith's victory. "So the people shouted when the priest blew with the trumpets; and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city" (Josh. 6:20). The walls fell down flat for the God with whom we have to do is supernatural. He is omnipotent.

No walls of opposition in our Christian experience are ever broken down apart from trusting Him to accomplish the victory. Daily we need to ask God for great things and expect from Him. We cannot afford to be conservative with God even if we are conservative among ourselves.

In a certain church there is a magnificent painting back of the pulpit in which Christ is seen rescuing Peter who is sinking into the sea. Majestically the Master of the sea is standing sovereign of the sea. Peter is crying, "Lord, save me or I perish." Does it not remind us that Christ stands above the place where we sink? There was no peril for Him who can rescue us from all peril. Nothing is too hard for Him.

Amid all this we cannot close without reminding each one of you of the provision which our Lord made for one who took His people at their word. I refer to Rahab. "By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that

believed not, when she had received the spies with peace" (Heb. 11:31). It is wonderful that we should have this incident preserved for us ere this story of Jericho's conquest by faith comes to a close. Faith is not limited to certain realms. It is the means of overcoming for one and all. There are no favorites with God. He honors faith by whomsoever it is exercised. When Jesus died it was not for a favored few, but for the sins of the whole world. Hence, any one exercising faith in God and His Word is acceptable. No boundaries have been established by Him. "Christ tasted death for every man." "And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:2).

Grace alone can take a woman of ill repute and give her universal repute, and put her in the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the first chapter of Matthew. Go to the Hall of Fame, go to all the Westminster

Abbeys in the world and see if any prostitutes have memorial tablets therein. It is only in God's great Hall of Fame that we see Rahab the harlot. It reveals what He is willing to do for the most sinful and how His blood can cleanse from all sin. No judgment can come where the blood of Christ shelters. The scarlet thread which this woman hung in her window at the behest of the spies typifies the blood of Christ. There is victory through faith. God help us to realize it.

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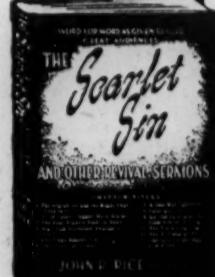
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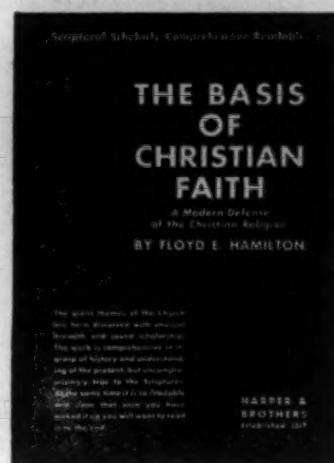
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NEWS

August Selection The Basis of Christian Faith

By FLOYD E. HAMILTON

This month, the judges reported, all the books were good. More than one of them said, in giving their sixth place choice: "This book is really GOOD, but something had to be last!" And out of such a group—six unusual books, any of which would have made a suitable main selection—one book still managed to stand out and be obviously the choice of the judges. It was so nearly unanimous that we were amazed—all the judges gave it first place except two, and they each put it second!

What are the factors that make the book so outstanding that a board of distinguished Christian leaders had to choose it first, from a field of really remarkable books? First, the book is a noble defense of the faith. It answers the arguments of infidels, modernists and evolutionists against the Bible, and against Christianity, and shows the reasonableness of faith in Christ and the Bible. Second, the book is comprehensive, really answers the problems and questions and attacks against Christianity. It really meets all the principal objections and answers them conclusively. Third, the book was written by a missionary, a devoted Presbyterian missionary to Korea who has spent most of his life there for God. As you would expect, the book is written with warmth and simplicity to bless common people as well as students. Fourth, this missionary was a college teacher also, regularly meeting these inquiries from the earnest Korean college students. So the book is scholarly, and really has the mature answers of a man whose scholarship and whose brilliant intellect must be respected.

A lovely clothbound book, published by Harper and Brothers, it has 354 information-packed pages and the price is only

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By George W. Truett

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Dr. Bob Jones: "The average Christian will enjoy THE PROPHET'S MANTLE. It is typical Truett—good thoughts clearly expressed, with a definite ring of the good news of the gospel."

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